



Date: July 1, 2017
To: Potential Local Business Sponsor
From: Mollie Freilicher, Community Action Forester
DCR Urban & Community Forestry Program
Re: Sponsorship of Local Tree Steward

Each year the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban & Community Forestry Program, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association, and the USDA Forest Service offer a two-day **Tree Steward Training** program for local Tree Committee members, Tree Wardens, tree activists, municipal officials, and other individuals interested in learning about improving their community through urban and community forestry. This year's training will be held October 13-14 at Harvard Forest in Petersham. Trained Tree Stewards then return to their communities where they put their learning into practice working to improve their city or town's community trees and forests.

The cost of the Tree Steward Training is \$55 (with an additional \$70 for those who require overnight accommodations), and we encourage interested individuals to approach local businesses to act as a local sponsor of their registration fee. We are writing to ask if you would be willing to become a sponsor.

Community trees add so much to the vitality of our cities and towns. They bring beauty, shade, and environmental benefits, and recent research has even demonstrated that community trees contribute significantly to the economic vitality of an area. Shoppers prefer to shop in tree-lined districts and are often willing to pay more for what they buy.

If you are interested in sponsoring an individual from your community to participate in the Massachusetts Tree Steward Training program, you may make a tax-deductible donation to the Mass ReLeaf Trust Fund.

Please make your check out to "**The Mass ReLeaf Trust Fund**" and mail your check to:

Mollie Freilicher
MA-DCR U&CF Program
P.O. Box 484
Amherst, MA 01004

Please include your business name and contact information, as well as information about the person you are sponsoring.

With this sponsorship, your business will be recognized at the training and in the printed training materials. Your sponsorship will also be recognized in our monthly news letter the "Citizen Forester" sent to over 2,000 readers across the state. Thanks for your support of community trees!

